

Needs for an updated or revised EU Global Strategy

Essay

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Abstract

The European Union, as a community deepening the integration of its members, sooner or later had to face a difficult task which undoubtedly is to ensure common security. The dynamically changing situation required identification of threats and taking real, concrete steps to build a coherent and effective security strategy. As a result of long and intensive works, the Global Strategy of the European Union was published in 2016.

This document was verified very quickly, and many authors started a debate on the direction in which the EU is going and the tools proposed in the strategy.

This paper discusses if there is a need for an updated or revised Global Strategy of the European Union from the perspective of its values and the effectiveness of the fight against the existing threats. In an attempt to obtain an answer to the formulated problem, the author presents the ideas of one of the founding fathers in order to verify the current values of the EU. Secondly, it presents a list of challenges that the Union has faced recently and analyzes the effectiveness of the taken steps and the current status of a given threats. In the final part of the work, the solutions proposed by the author were described and the results were discussed.

Global Strategy, European Union, Robert Schumann, European values, common safety

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Preface

I am a cadet studying command at the Military University of Land Forces in Wrocław - Poland. As a future officer, for many years I have been trying to deepen my knowledge of common security and the strategy pursued by the European Union. I am particularly interested in geopolitics and the military history of my country and Europe. Through active participation in the scientific life of the university, I try to make the best use of the opportunities offered by international cooperation of military universities. I was a tutor of foreign students twice, I had the opportunity to attend a two-month internship at Theresian Military Academy in Austria, or successfully complete the recruitment process for student exchange at West Point. The effect of the mentioned activity was the distinction which is undoubtedly the possibility of representing my university in the CSDP Olympiad.

I come from a country that is familiar with the fight for freedom and independence. For hundreds of years, Poland, located in the heart of Europe, defended access to the Old Continent against various threats, and Poles, for example during WWII, fought on many fronts for the freedom of many nations. Thus, the need to joint effort on the future security of our countries seems to be something obvious.

As a future commander, I believe that expanding my knowledge on common security and common defense capabilities is my duty and a necessary element directly affecting my command capabilities.

The above topic gives a very wide field for discussion and deepening the state of knowledge. Undoubtedly, the author's origin and the location of his country have a great influence on the position he takes. I am aware that each country represents its interests and perceives threats differently. That is why the discussion on the need to update or revise the EU global strategy can be colorful, and my work will bring a substantive voice to the whole matter.

This work deals with the subject of the global EU Strategy, which is important from the point of view of the European community. I would like to try in the best possible way to answer the question whether the EU needs to update or revise its strategy.

3. Introduction

The European Union undoubtedly was and still is a globally unique economic and political union of democratic European countries. From the very beginning, this uniqueness concerned the vision of creating a union of countries forming in the spirit of one civilisation, but not of the same history. In the spirit of a similar culture but with different traditions. Situated in Europe, but in different parts of it, in different geopolitical conditions. Being heirs of Christian tradition, but caring for citizens of different religions - respecting religious freedom in the spirit of respecting all religions. Developing in the 21st century, but at a completely different economic level. Finally, they are represented by the Union in the international arena, but have their own independent national interests.

As one of the founding fathers, Robert Schuman, wrote: *“A united Europe will not be built overnight and not without obstacles in its path. Its construction will follow the path of the spirit. Nothing that is lasting happens easily. Europe is on the move. But beyond the institutions, the roots of the idea of community and its spirit of solidarity as a community are essential”*¹. Despite the many obstacles, centuries of wars, and things that divide member countries, in addition to the growing community, the EU's efforts were recognized when it received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012. It was the first symbolic award that paid tribute to the efforts made to ensure security not only in European countries, but also further afield.

The dynamic changes taking place since the beginning of this century show that the path of the Community will never be without obstacles and they throw up new challenges for all members of the Union to face every day. Some of them have already been defined, some of them we know how to deal with, but some of them are completely new and often unpredictable. At this point we can ask ourselves: how does the European Union deal with these threats and what allows for decisive and accurate responses? - The Union, thanks to its uniqueness, has the sum of the rich experience of its members combined with its own procedures and strategies developed over the years. Undoubtedly, the EU can boast of a remarkable and comprehensive array of instruments to respond to its immediate and wider environment. From the outset, the

¹ Pursuit: <http://imschuman.com/idee/>

implementation of the European Global Strategy was intended to strengthen European defence capabilities, to intensify cooperation with NATO and to increase the resilience of Member States to hybrid threats. The Global Strategy addresses contemporary threats by identifying them properly and choosing an appropriate countermeasure strategy. Closer analysis of this strategic document allows us to say that it is intended to be a comprehensive document, whose global nature refers not only to the geographical dimension, but also to the whole range of sectors and areas of life that are most important for the security of the community. It seems crucial to recognise the need for community involvement at all stages of possible conflicts or crises.

The global strategy is an essential document, making a significant contribution to increasing the level of security of the people of Europe, but the changing international situation, particularly in the EU's immediate environment, is very quickly testing the effectiveness, relevance and topicality of any strategy. We see that the times of the obvious are over - and for the Union the times of constant choices and decisions have begun, the speed and accuracy of which will affect the future of millions of people. Russia is constantly demonstrating its military strength, China is actively investing in all the world's markets - the Union is negotiating, monitoring, implementing and producing new documents. For this reason the time has come for the EU to decide, both to partially revise and to update its existing Global Strategy, in order not to lose its own values and roots and to be slowly dismantled in the game of powers.

The suggested revision concerns a change of direction from a bureaucratic juggernaut with double standards, looking for modern values and ever greater control, to an institution that stands up for its roots and values, that cares about justice, that unites countries in a common security policy, that allows for greater independence in decision making and that is mindful of the differing interests and economic situations of member countries. This update of the Global Strategy stems mainly from the need for a realistic and sustainable vision of development, including ways to achieve priority objectives and specifying the forces and means assigned to achieve them.

The aim of this paper is to discuss the current global strategy - to point out both its good points and the need for further development and search for more effective solutions. Then, to argue the suggested necessity of changing and updating the global strategy and

to acquaint the reader with the solutions proposed according to Schuman's thought: "*Unity while fully preserving diversity*" solutions.

4. Current State of Research

The concept of a global EU strategy raises many emotions and divergent positions. This is due to many, often different ideas about the future of the community and the increasing number of member countries. Including the years after 2003 and 2016, many experts have undertaken to analyze the strategy and evaluate the effects of its implementation. Looking for information on this topic we can easily find many interesting sources. Starting from specialist literature - analyses devoted to the global strategy, through a large number of articles dealing with the above mentioned topic, ending with interviews and statements of individual experts and politicians. Virtually every member state contributed a separate contribution to the wide and varied spectrum of available sources.

Due to the large number of countries potentially interested in assessing the EU global strategy, the study focused on the available English-language literature and that written in the mother tongue - Polish. In order to create as complete a picture as possible, aware of the differences in perception and worldview, when selecting sources for analysis, I tried to find, analyse and understand quite a large number of differing or radically different opinions and ideas. Below are the most key ones from my point of view - bringing the greatest value to the discussion.

The first English-language work is "The European Union's Global Strategy three years on, looking forward". As an analysis of the direct creators of the EUGS, it summarizes three years of implementation and functioning of the strategy in many areas. The authors list achievements, shortcomings and suggest options for future action. The paper underlines the role of the EUGS as a compass for the whole EU and suggests the need to strive for greater autonomy of the EU in its actions. This autonomy, through a greater willingness and ability to cooperate with its partners and by acting more autonomously, is supposed to contribute to a higher level of security, thus defending its own interests and values in the world². It is hard not to agree with the need for autonomy in action,

² The European Union's Global Strategy: Three years on, moving forward, June 2019. Pursuit: https://eeas.europa.eu/topics/eu-global-strategy/17304/global-strategy-european-unions-foreign-and-security-policy_en

but the overly optimistic tone of the document means that few solutions can be seen to update or give a new direction to the strategy.

A more objective analysis by Flo Van Den Broeck, which brings much to the discussion, was published in November 2020. In her paper entitled "Four years later, time to revise the EU's Global Strategy?" the author stresses that despite many achievements in the area of security and defence, cooperation has not been strengthened and growing uncertainty and rivalry have become characteristic. He goes on to suggest that the EU is very helpless when trying to solve problems with Belarus, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict or the dispute between Israel and Palestine. Diagnosing the reasons for problems with applying in practice the concepts of state and society resilience, strategic autonomy and pragmatism, he points to a very vague description of these concepts leaving room for divergent interpretations³.

In their paper "The future of values in the EU Global Strategy 2020", authors Maryna Rabinovych and Zuzana Reptova analyse the Global Strategy in the context of the presented paradigm of pragmatism. They argue that the EUGS would benefit from a greater emphasis on values and from a more open and detailed position on fundamental pragmatism. Following their analysis, they explain how a stronger emphasis on values can enhance the EU's role as a global player⁴.

A well-known political scientist, Sven Biscop, takes a firm stance on this issue in his publication "Analysing the EU Global Strategy on foreign and security policy". Biscop takes readers through the history of the creation and subsequent evolution of GS and suggests that the strategy should be systematically reviewed and updated after each new European election⁵.

In my opinion, the most valuable and thus appropriate position in written sources in Polish is the analysis written by Stanisław Koziej: "The EU Global Strategy: opportunities and further implementation challenges". The Polish professor shows that

³ Van Den Boeck, F. (2020). Four years later, time to revise EU's Global Strategy?
<https://www.vocaleurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/Four-years-later-time-to-revise-the-EUs-Global-Strategy.pdf>

⁴ Rabinovych, M. & Reptova, Z. (2019). The future values in the EU Global Strategy 2020.
http://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/wps/portal/rielcano_en/contenido?WCM_GLOBAL_CONTEXT=/elcano/elcano_in/zonas_in/ari112-2019-rabinovych-reptova-the-future-of-values-in-the-eu-global-strategy-2020

⁵ Biscop, S. (2021). Analysing the EU Global strategy on foreign and security policy, 4th Edition of the CSDP Handbook.

the adopted strategy is limited only to calculations, which is insufficient to adopt an effective operational strategy. He suggests considering updating the EUGS with assessments and forecasts of the European security environment⁶.

⁶ Koziej, S. (2017). EU Global Strategy: opportunities and implementation challenges.

5. Research Gap

Despite a large number of works on the Global Strategy of the European Union, analysis of available sources allows for finding a hitherto undeveloped research space. This space, for the author, is to discuss the need to both revise and update GS, based on current examples from the functioning of the EU, complemented by attention to very important aspects of degradation of the values of the whole community and departure from its own roots. The work done so far has mainly advocated either waiting a specific period of time until the next revision, or suggesting adjustments and changes to update or revise the whole strategy. Moreover, in a significant number of cases, the aspect of the EU's values and departure from its own roots has been either completely overlooked or addressed only in a symbolic way.

The current situation in the world and in the immediate environment of the European Union requires, as never before, the preparation of appropriate tools and, above all, firm, rapid and effective responses from governments. The countries of the Union must not remain dormant in their present prosperity and times of relative peace. The Global Strategy should be discussed as often as possible and the effectiveness of the solutions implemented analysed. Presented as a comprehensive document responsible for our common security, it must be an answer to current and future challenges and threats. This is why this subject is so important.

6. Research Question

Trying to answer the question - does the European Union need an update or revision of the Global Strategy? Or is it possible that it does not need any changes? The paper is divided into 3 parts - each of them is accompanied by an attempt to answer the research question.

In the first part - Has the Union moved away from its values and roots? If so, does it have a real impact on the policies it pursues? I would like to quote the visions and opinions of the founders of the Union and compare them with the current state of the Union.

The second part presents the EU response to crises and threats. Were the solutions proposed in the GS effective and did they give the Union a chance to react appropriately? This part contains examples of real conflicts and threats that have recently occurred in Europe or in its closest environment.

Finally, having answered the first two questions, I would like to focus my attention on the possibilities for implementing new solutions. What direction should the European Union take at a time of growing uncertainty? The proposals presented are intended to make a real contribution to increasing the effectiveness of the EUGS, thus contributing to a higher level of security for its inhabitants and strengthening the EU's position on the global stage.

7. Methodology

Due to the specificity of the work, a vast majority of secondary data, i.e. literature developed by other authors, was used in the process of creating the EUGS assessment. In order to make a theoretical analysis of the problem, I made a preliminary selection of available materials, focusing mainly on official documents and publications under the aegis of the European Union, as well as articles and books of other authors studying the EU activities. The main sources of collected and used information were: internet publications, academic library, digital library, available podcasts. Due to the limitations of my language skills, in all sources I focused only on those written in English and Polish.

Through consultation with my mentor and discussion with the MEP on questions related to the topic of the paper, primary data was also used.

The information gathered was aimed at determining whether or not the hypothesis I set out at the outset: that it is time for the EU to decide - both to partially revise and update its existing Global Strategy so as not to lose its own values and roots and be slowly dismantled in the power play - is true. In order to get a definitive answer I first made a pre-selection, then a selection, as well as a thorough analysis. The whole process was aided by the research questions posed, based on which the answer obtained was contained in the conclusions.

8. Research and Result of Research

The European Union adopts successive strategies, condemns, talks, proudly speaks of its values: freedom, respect, unity and the fight for a better future for all inhabitants in a safe "green Europe". However, looking beyond EU reports and deliberations, we can see a completely different picture. The migration crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, the upcoming energy crisis, the demographic crisis, the conflicts in Donbass and Nagorno-Karabakh, the toleration of the conflict in Palestine, the implementation of double standards with regard to the Member States, the increasing number of rapes and religious attacks, the growing invigilation of society, the unlimited influence of large corporations and the preference of EU regulations over Member State constitutions are completely different issues. That is, in a nutshell, the last years of functioning of the community with visible aspirations to become a Superstate that talks so much about its values, strategies and future. How much is left of European values? To what extent is the EU strategy effective? Is the Union prepared for future threats? In this paper I will try to consider the above issues and get answers to the questions posed, and above all, test the hypothesis.

8.1. The role of values and community roots in current European politics and situation

*"My idea is not to merge countries to create a Super State. Our European countries are a historical reality. It would be psychologically impossible and unreasonable to get rid of them. Their diversity is a good thing, and it makes no sense to remove them or to do equalization or unification."*⁷ Robert Schuman

*"European policy certainly cannot be at variance with patriotic ideals. It should encourage everyone to have a special and genuine love for their homeland, thus fostering a love which, by its very nature, will not work to the disadvantage of other countries. Such an approach will lead to unity while fully preserving diversity"*⁸.

Robert Schuman

I would like to begin my reflections by quoting the words of Robert Schuman, who together with other Founding Fathers contributed to the creation of a common,

⁷ Pursuit: <http://imschuman.com/idee/>

⁸ Pursuit: <http://imschuman.com/idee/>

institutional Europe, guided by its historical and cultural heritage and by Christian values. These values have for many years been the European link of our European history. The author of the quoted words assumed that the centuries-old religious and cultural tradition would be the foundation of lasting economic cooperation between European countries. He claimed that thanks to it it will be possible to overcome egoistic aspirations of countries and create a platform for dialogue, i.e. a source of values for peaceful negotiations. In his beliefs, he stressed the need to preserve the absolute sovereignty of states and patriotic ideals. He thus professed the idea of trying to achieve unity while preserving diversity. Diversity was thus seen as a natural resource, a heritage to be cherished and the driving force of Europe. The future Europe was to be characterized by such qualities as solidarity, discipline, equality of countries, cooperation, respect for differences and care for its own tradition, roots and Christian culture. These values were to protect the community against selfish ambitions, imperialistic aspirations or a Europe of double standards. At the same time caring for the security of all the inhabitants of the old continent⁹.

Firstly, the European Union has clearly begun to transform itself from an Economic Union into a Superstate without the explicit consent of all the Member States, thereby forcibly imposing its own views and new standards. An example is the ruling by the European Commission that European law takes precedence over a country's constitution¹⁰. This situation relates to the Polish State, whose Constitutional Court has ruled, on the basis of the prevailing law, that the Polish Constitution takes precedence. It should be added that the European Commission's ruling is based on a verdict of the European Court of Justice - despite the absence of specific provisions in the treaties or of legally binding arrangements¹¹.

Going further, for many years the Union has systematically applied so-called double standards to its members. This means different attitudes towards countries in a similar situation. Consequences are drawn against some, while the situation in other countries is often simply kept quiet. For example, in 2018, France and Italy exceeded their budget

⁹ Pelt, J.M. (2002). Robert Schuman. The Father of Europe.

¹⁰ Statement/21/5142, October 2021.

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/statement_21_5142

¹¹ Kalnoky, B. (2021). Opinion: EU emphasizes power over values in row with Poland.

<https://www.dw.com/en/opinion-eu-emphasizes-power-over-values-in-row-with-poland/a-59600757>

deficits - Brussels kept quiet about the situation in France¹², while pressure was exerted on Italy¹³ despite a smaller deficit. Another example was tolerating double standards in food production for Western and Eastern Europe. It has been proven that producers have supplied inferior products to Eastern countries, despite systematic controls by EU operators¹⁴. Another example is the European Union's claim that it tried to politicise the media in Poland, when the state limited the proportion of non-European owners to 49%. France, Spain, Cyprus or Austria, for example, have the same or a lower share, and only Poland has been raised in Parliament¹⁵. The Union has allowed the construction of a gas pipeline that favours a specific country by cooperating with a state-owned company that has the tools of blackmail in the form of restrictions on the supply of raw materials in order to pursue its national interests. Despite stating that there is no Community benefit, increasing the influence of one company and upsetting the existing balance, the EU has not applied any specific penalties¹⁶.

The third, extremely important argument in the discussion seems to be all the activities conducted by the Union on ideological grounds. For several years now, one can observe a clearly increased activity of the EU bodies preparing an increasing number of directives and guidelines. This starts with general liberalism, the cult of freedom and the fight against traditional values under the broad aegis of tolerance. This seems to be particularly evident in actions concerning national education systems. These systems are continuously coordinated, monitored and evaluated according to very vague European criteria. The problem seems to be not only the attempt to ignore the rich diversity of traditions, language and geography, but above all the fact that this is not an agreed policy but an imposed fact¹⁷. Robert Spaemann in his essay "Europe - a community of values or a legal order?" wrote that: [...] *"Talking about values", "is both trivial and dangerous". It is trivial because every community shares certain values. It becomes*

¹² Sheftalovich, Z.(2018). <https://www.politico.eu/article/macron-lost-authority-after-caving-to-yellow-jackets-says-oettinger-brexiteu-budget/>

¹³ Pursuit: <https://www.dw.com/en/eu-shoots-down-italys-budget-plans-again/a-46388939>

¹⁴ Euronews, (2017). <https://www.euronews.com/2017/10/13/east-v-west---how-double-standards-in-food-and-product-quality-are-causing-an>

¹⁵ Schwarz, K. P. (2021). EU values and double standards. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/opinion-eu-values-and-double-standards-politics,3628.html>

¹⁶ Riley, A. (2021). Gazprom's folly. <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/energysource/gazproms-folly-in-seeking-to-deliver-nord-stream-2-it-may-undermine-its-own-access-to-eu-markets/>

¹⁷ Lacaita, F. & Latempa, R. (2018). The europeanization of schooling. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/europeanization-of-schooling/>

dangerous when it wants to replace fundamental rights with fundamental values. "The Third Reich was unquestionably a community of values," that is, of ideals that were considered superior at the time - nation, race and health. The state, as in Marxist ideology, was only an agent of these supreme values. Therefore, when in doubt, the party was always above the state. Whenever "state power, invoking higher values, considers itself entitled to prevent people from doing something that no law allows it to forbid, danger lies ahead" ¹⁸.

To conclude this section, the values of the European Union play a very important role in the daily functioning of the community. Based on common values, the Founding Fathers dared to create a Union whose inestimable wealth is its diversity, but also its common Christian-European roots and culture. The present authorities of the Union also undeniably understand the essence of values. However, they are attempting, for their own purposes, to interfere in a dangerous manner with the ideological foundations and values handed down from generation to generation. There is a visible problem of the devaluation of certain values at the expense of modernity and the cult of the individual. The explanation for this state of affairs seems to be a desire for the Union's bodies to have an ever-increasing influence on the daily lives of its citizens and to control the Member States. All of this makes it possible to see the dangerous direction in which the whole community is heading, because the unity, equality, rule of law and democracy so emphasised are being invoked and interpreted and used according to need. Such actions have a direct impact on the security of the EU, which is mainly preoccupied with internal disputes.

8.2. Effectiveness of GS in real-world tests

The Global Strategy presents a list of threats and challenges that the Union faces every day. Some of these seem obvious today, while others surprise us with their unpredictability. For this reason, preparing the tools to enable an appropriate, rapid and effective response seems essential for our common security. In the document we are discussing, there are many fine words about combating these threats, about the concept of pragmatism or joint action in times of various challenges. However, how can we evaluate the effectiveness of action on the basis of recent years? The table below

¹⁸ Schwarz, K.P. (2021). Op. cit. <https://www.gisreportsonline.com/opinion-eu-values-and-double-standards-politics,3628.html>

presents examples of selected challenges and a brief description of actions and their effects. For the purpose of this paper, brief assessments of the current situation as well as a gradation by colour have been made. The table was created subjectively on the basis of the collected information and the author's own opinion. Green means high effectiveness, yellow means neutral, red means conflict deterioration and white means

CHALLENGES	EU ACTIONS	EFFECTS	
Migration crisis on the Polish border	Conducting pro-immigration activities/lack of quick response/negative opinion on building the wall	Escalation of conflict/threat to border/lives of migrants and soldiers	
Energy crisis	Under the pretext of energy, introducing restrictive standards and limitations	High degree of uncertainty/risk to continuity of supply/impoverishment of society	
Pandemic Covid-19	Lack of prepared procedures/cooperation with big corporations/censorship of contracts/lack of logic	High number of vaccinations/confusion of the public/much contradictory information/forced vaccination	
Conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh	Lack of appropriate instruments/mediator role/issue of statements	Little influence on the conflict/no real help possible/putting mediation in the hands of Russia and Turkey/failure to resolve the conflict	
Migration crisis	Lack of a firm migration policy/insufficient assistance to countries of emigrants/high level of bureaucracy/lack of border preparation	Continuous state of uncertainty/large numbers of migrants trying to enter Europe/Turkey/Belarus blackmail	
Conflict in Ukraine	Role of the negotiator/no clear declaration on Ukraine's admission to the EU	Situation of continuing tension/demonstration of the strength of the Russian military/cooperation between Germany and Russia on Nord Stream 2	
Terrorist attacks	Increased security measures: dams, patrols. Increased surveillance	Reducing the number of group assaults	Increased number of single incidents

difficult to assess.

Table 1: Current threats and challenges¹⁹.

¹⁹ Table created by the author, 2021.

Firstly, on the basis of the information gathered, we can state that with the passing of time more and more problems appear. Those that are already known often remain unresolved, in limbo or in transition. In practically all cases, the sheer length of the procedures and the activation of response paths have prevented a swift and effective Union response.

The migration crisis has shown perfectly well that the Union has no idea how to solve this problem on a permanent basis. Europe's economic situation is an incentive for people from poor countries and those affected by warfare. After the adoption of the migration policy, the influx of refugees to the continent was significantly reduced, however, looking at the current example of Poland, we can see that new transit corridors are being created all the time. In addition, refugees are used by Turkey and Belarus as a bargaining chip in international politics²⁰.

As far as current conflicts are concerned, the EU, despite having a Global Strategy and the desire to influence security in its immediate surroundings, has played a marginal role in them. It has not taken the initiative in any of these cases, and its statements condemning military action and calling for peace can be regarded as symbolic²¹.

Europe is likely to face an energy crisis in the near future. It is, in a sense, an artificially created crisis, the effects of which may be felt particularly by the poorest countries. All this is due to a lack of independence from Russian gas supplies - Germany has even strengthened its cooperation. In addition, the decarbonisation policy being pursued has an impact on rising gas prices. Unfortunately, the combination of these two factors leads to very high uncertainty and a lack of control over the situation²².

In conclusion, from the above cases we can see that the EU did not have and still does not have effective tools for a quick and efficient response. However, the continuous work on improving and developing such tools should be appreciated. Better and better identification of future threats also plays a very important role in ensuring security.

²⁰ Schmid-Druner, M.(2021). Immigration Policy.

<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/152/immigration-policy>

²¹ Van Den Boeck, F. Four years later, time to revise EU's Global Strategy?, November 2020. <https://www.vocaleurope.eu/wp-content/uploads/Four-years-later-time-to-revise-the-EUs-Global-Strategy.pdf>

²² Dempsay, J.(2021). Judy asks: Is Europe's Energy crisis self-inflicted. <https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/85668>

8.3. Preparing for future threats

The European Union is paying increasing attention to the security of the community. It is working on building new capabilities and enhancing those already acquired and functioning. From the perspective of the threats and challenges under discussion, it seems crucial at this point to understand the needs of the members of the community and to give them an appropriate level of autonomy in making certain decisions. A level of autonomy that will be constantly accompanied by constant access to community tools such as common analyses and expertise, additional financial resources, material assistance, specific assistance of law enforcement services, the possibility of introducing sanctions, a common database, technological exchange, e.g. know how. This autonomy in taking strategic decisions on the security of a given country is intended to enable the country to determine the degree of need for assistance and to enable the country to act on its own with the support of other countries, since in most cases it is the countries at risk that know best how to deal with the situation without infringing on their own sovereignty²³.

²³

Author's note: Conclusion based about the author's argument.

9. Discussion of Results

The results of the research show that there is now a clear need to both partially revise and update the Global Strategy of the European Union. The existing threats have been mostly correctly identified. Some new ones have had very little impact on the EU. A period of five years seems to be the right time to check the effectiveness and analyse the solutions introduced, but the suggested changes and updates could result from a different approach, a look at the pursuit of the highest possible level of security.

Based on the research carried out, I am of the opinion that the European Union now needs both a partial change and an update of its strategy. This conviction should be treated as the author's personal opinion based on the arguments presented and the discussion devoted to them. I am aware that this paper presents only a small fraction of the information and examples that could have influenced the final evaluation of the hypothesis. The threads not raised so far leave considerable space for further discussion and counterarguments. Moreover, the author's background, personal values, and the current situation in Poland may have had some influence on his opinion. Nonetheless, I hope that the work presented here will bring new life and freshness, and above all, new substantive value to the discussion on this topic.

In order to make the discussion more objective, at this point I would like to consider the opposite position to the hypothesis.

Contrary to my opinion, some people may say that the Global Strategy has only just been supplemented by the EU Security Union Strategy 2020-2025, in which new solutions are presented. In addition, preparing such a strategy and making significant changes requires time and a lot of work. Immediate implementation of a new strategy could misappropriate the work which has already been done and would not allow sufficient time for verification.

I see this argument as very legitimate, however, I would like to emphasize that the need for a change and an update of the strategy that I suggest stems from the approach to the topic from the perspective of values and its practical effectiveness. The aforementioned values are the indispensable foundation of the entire strategy, therefore it seems necessary to verify them on the basis of the values of the Founding Fathers. What's more, the differences in the approach to life values should be taken into account here. Going further, the indicated low practical effectiveness in the confrontation with current

challenges and threats results in the need for deep reflection and the introduction of necessary changes. At no point do I indicate that these should be drastic changes overnight. I believe that such changes need time, so they could be taken into account when creating the next version of the Global Strategy in 4-5 years.

Another important counter-argument may be a difference in views due to a person's background or different point of view. For example, a person coming from a country with different geopolitical conditions may not share the arguments presented above as relevant. Such a person may perceive threats in completely different terms and expect the EU to act in a way that is beneficial from the point of view of their country's policy. Additionally, as I mentioned above, the system of values that a given person is guided by plays an important role. All this may influence the opinion that there is no need to change or update the Global Strategy.

In attempting to respond to this argument, I would like to emphasise that, in my opinion, the considerations that were carried out took into account the overall interest of the European Union as a community. This interest is to ensure the highest possible level of security for all residents of the Community by maintaining its own values and introducing effective solutions. I am aware that the perception of security will depend on the economic level, location, geopolitical conditions, politics and values of the state in question.

In conclusion, I believe that in order to increase the effectiveness of the European Union's Global Strategy some changes are needed in the system of values and in the tools used to respond to subsequent threats. We should make use of past experience and very well-diagnosed threats. The suggested changes should be implemented without haste, taking into account the time needed for their preparation. The main suggested solution is to ensure an appropriate degree of country/site autonomy while providing a wide range of support in the form of necessary forces, resources, knowledge, expertise, and sanctions. We need a systematic review of the Global Strategy, and a period of 4-5 years seems optimal. Let the words of Robert Schuman - '*Unity while fully preserving diversity*²⁴' - be the message to guide our actions.

²⁴Pursuit: <http://imschuman.com/idee/>

10. Annexes

10.1. List of Abbreviations

<i>Abbreviation</i>	<i>Definition</i>
EU	European Union
EUGS	European Union's Global Strategy
GS	Global Strategy
MEP	Member of European Parliament
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
WWII	World War II

10.2. List of Tables

Table 1: Current threats and challenges

10.3. List of Literature

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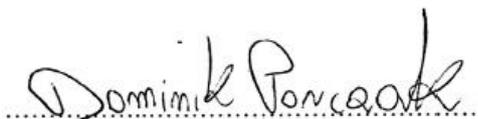
11. Affidavit

Affidavit

I declare that I have written the present essay independently and on my own. I have clearly marked any language or ideas borrowed from other sources as not my own and documented their sources. The essay does not contain any work that I have handed in or have had graded as a previous scientific paper earlier on.

I am aware that any failure to do so constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of another person's thoughts or words as if they were my own – even if I summarize, paraphrase, condense, cut, rearrange, or otherwise alter them.

I am aware of the consequences and sanctions plagiarism entails. Among others, consequences may include nullification of the essay, exclusion from participation in the CSDP Olympiad. These consequences also apply retrospectively, i.e. if plagiarism is discovered after the essay has been accepted and graded. I am fully aware of the scope of these consequences.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominik Porczak". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dotted line.

Cadet Dominik Porczak

Wroclaw, Poland in November 2021